

Project Update: July 2011

On 9th August 2011, we undertook the first meeting of sensitisation of the locals elected on the protection of the natural forest of Bururi. The meeting was opened by the mayor of the commune of Bururi and the Technical Director charged with the management of the protected areas in Burundi. Participating in this workshop were the locals elected of eight villages that border the reserve natural of Bururi (five representatives by village).

It was necessary to reinforce the capacities of the locals elected on the situation of the forest of Bururi, and talk about the importance of the forest, the law governing the protected areas in Burundi and of Bururi in particular and the role of the communities in the protection of this ecosystem. Towards the end of the day, the locals elected set two big specific objectives to achieve from now to October 2011: to sensitise their communities more on the protection of this forest and to work with the forest rangers in the fight against all destruction. These representatives of the communities are agreed to elaborate a pact of engagement for the protection of the natural reserve of Bururi and to sign it in October. Every representative will present his realisations in favour of the protection of the natural reserve of Bururi. This session was a real success and the Technical Director charged of the management of the protected areas who was one of the trainer of the communities declared that he will duplicate this experience of meeting also with the communities in the national park of the Ruvubu to the northeast also confronted to a human pressure.

It will also be important to sensitise the young students and nonstudents on the importance of the protection of the natural forest of Bururi.

